



*First Waterman Cup Team: From left to right: Jean Totten, Marion Mills, Alice Ann Staak, Elsie VonMaur, Louise Johnson, Margaret Walker, and Millicent Polley. Lee Bettendorf was not present when the photo was taken on August 26, 1948.*

game. We didn't know then, as we know now, that this game "is a science, the study of a lifetime, in which you may exhaust yourself, but never our subject." Charlie Stephens was the first to seize the club and prepare to do murder to this helpless object. Charlie swore a lot. He was over six feet tall, weighed well over two hundred pounds - a human dynamo if there ever was one, and every ounce and fiber of his nature full of of profanity. Charlie swung vigorously, missed the ball; then tried again with the same result. He tried again and again each time fanning the air or hitting the ground until finally he paused for breath. Then Major Blunt said, "Stephens, you should address the ball. "What?" Stephens said. "You should

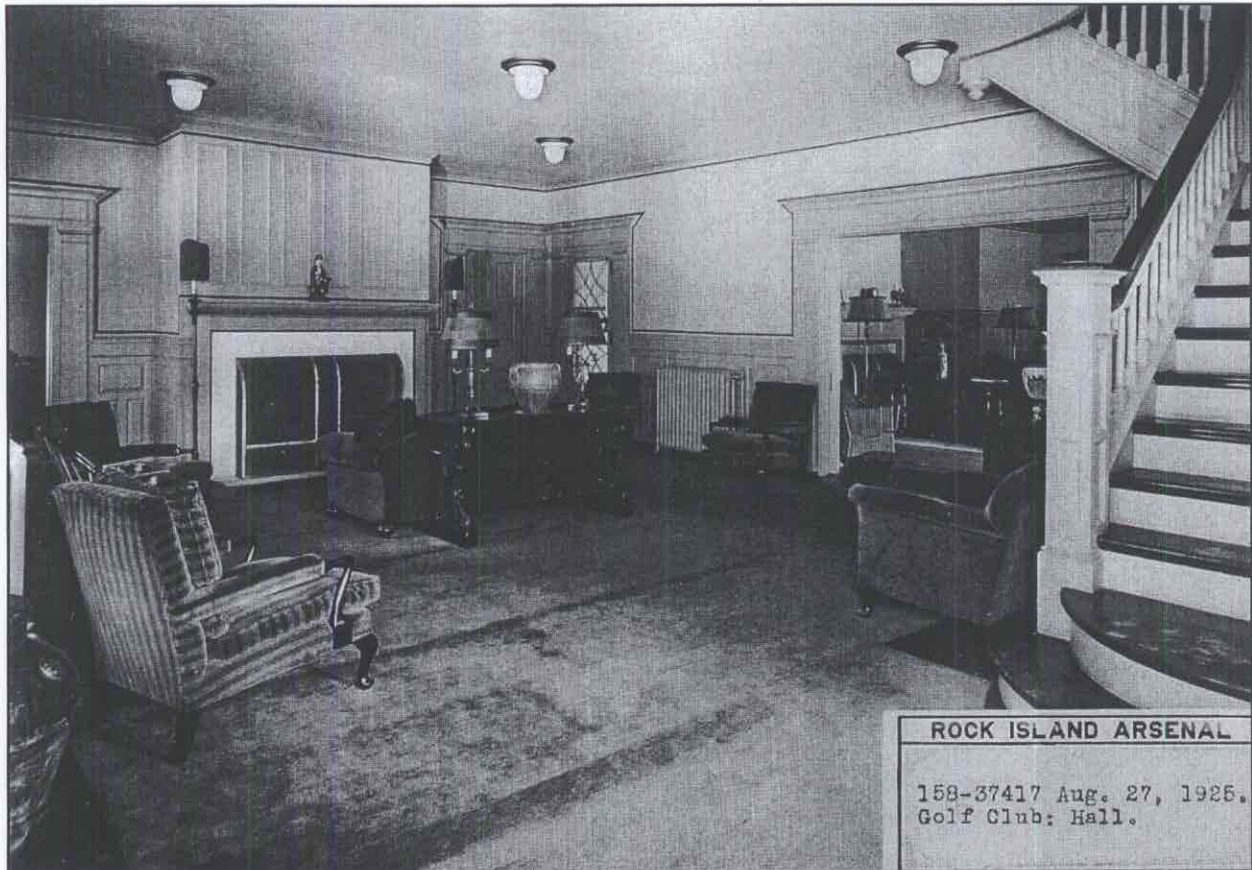


*The Waterman Cup, a travelling trophy donated to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf by Mrs. C.D. Waterman in 1948. The tournament provides competition between top women golfers of various private clubs in the Quad Cities. The Arsenal Golf Club won the Waterman Cup in 1948, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1977, 1978, and tied with Short Hills Country Club, East Moline in 1981.*

address the ball." "Oh," Stephens said, and he prostrated himself prone on the ground. Stomach down, face to the ball, he "addressed" it verbally, "Now, you blankety blank little white painted blankety blank, come on - go."

When Colonel Ramsey retired from active duties as Commander of the Rock Island Arsenal, he had been raised in rank to Brigadier General. His farewell reception was held at the Rock





*A fireplace and staircase in the Front Parlor of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1925. View toward the Mid Parlor. The room was redecorated in 1955.*

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Island Arsenal Golf Club on September 27, 1944. Among the 200 civilian and military personnel at the Arsenal were Mrs. Waldmann and COL Carl A. Waldmann, who became Commanding Officer the following day. Because of limitation of space in the clubhouse, 1000 applications for tickets were turned down.

General and Mrs. Ramsey personally greeted the guests from the long porch leading into the dining room. Features of the dinner meeting were musical selections by the Arsenal band and the male chorus. From the patio adjoining the club's dining room, the band, dressed in colorful uniforms, opened the program with the "Washington Post March" and continued during the dinner hour with "Waltz Medley", "Hungarian Fantasie", "Time Was", "Clarinet Polka", "Dark Town Strutters Ball", and "The Stars and Stripes Forever". The male chorus, making its first appearance in white uniforms, sang "Ordnance Song", "This Is My Country", "Those Pals of Ours", "Believe Me", and "God Bless America"<sup>19</sup>.

Not only members of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, but also various other organizations have used the course for their outings in the past. On July 22, 1945, the fifth annual Rock Island Ordnance Center Interdepartmental Golf Tournament teed off and found 79 golfers at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Course, ready to do or die for the glory of the Shops, Administration, Officers' or Field Service teams.

The Shops team, piloted by Herb Lopas, finished in first place. The Administration team, which won the tournament the previous year, finished second with its captain, Dick Aubrey. Two members of this team, Charles Wagoner and Ed Sigler, shared honors for collecting the highest number of points under the Velie Cup scoring system. In third place was the Officers' team. Number one man on the team was COL O.G. Fegan. COL C.A. Waldmann shot second highest. Bringing up the rear was the Field Service team. The tournament medalist, Ralph DeReus, was on the last place team. Herb Lopas received enough super-quality golf balls for his winning team to keep his boys going for the rest of the season - almost. "Twas a great day for the Irish", chortled Lopas, as he gathered in the windfall and then proceeded to divide the loot among his prize-scorers<sup>20</sup>.

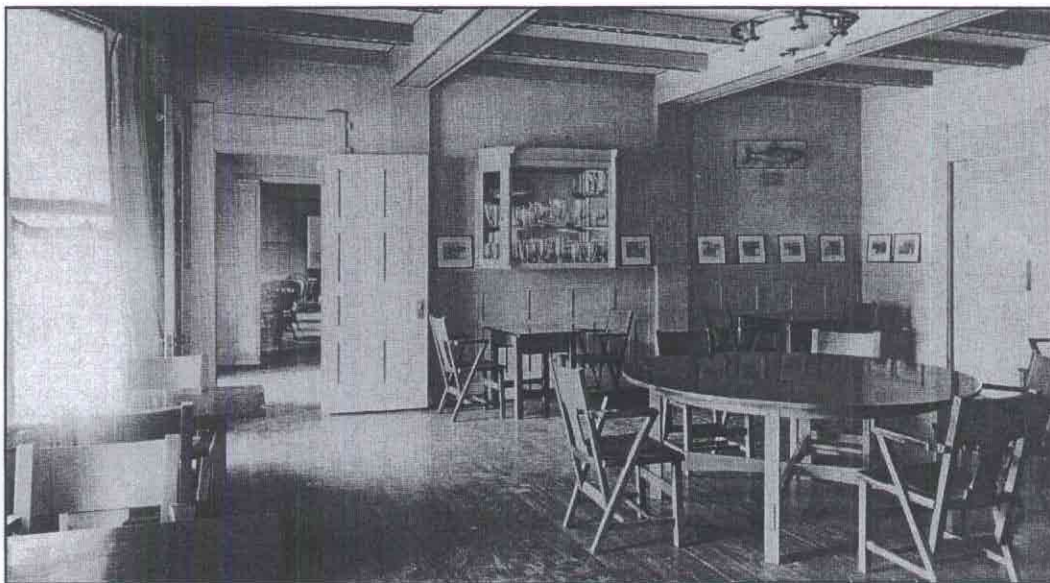
Jean Totten was the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Champion in 1950, having been runner-up the year before. For the next thirty-five years, she was Club Champion an additional six times and runner-up five times. Her living room and trophy case are filled with dozens of great awards consisting of silver cups, lead crystal vases, and jewelry. As a quiet, modest 25-year-old young lady, barely over five feet tall, Jean came to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in March of 1943 as an accomplished tennis player, being a master in this area and the Midwest. She taught herself golf and was determined to overcome all obstacles to be the best in her field. As they say in German, "*Kein Meister ist bis jetzt vom Himmel gefallen.*" "No Master has fallen from heaven up 'til now." They were created here on earth by acquiring an inner discipline of practice, determination and endurance. With such qualities comes success, the fun of the game, and the undying love of the sport. Jean said, "I have been blessed that every caddie I ever had remembered me". At the club she was affectionately known as "Miss T". What prompted Jean to play golf? Jean said<sup>21</sup>:

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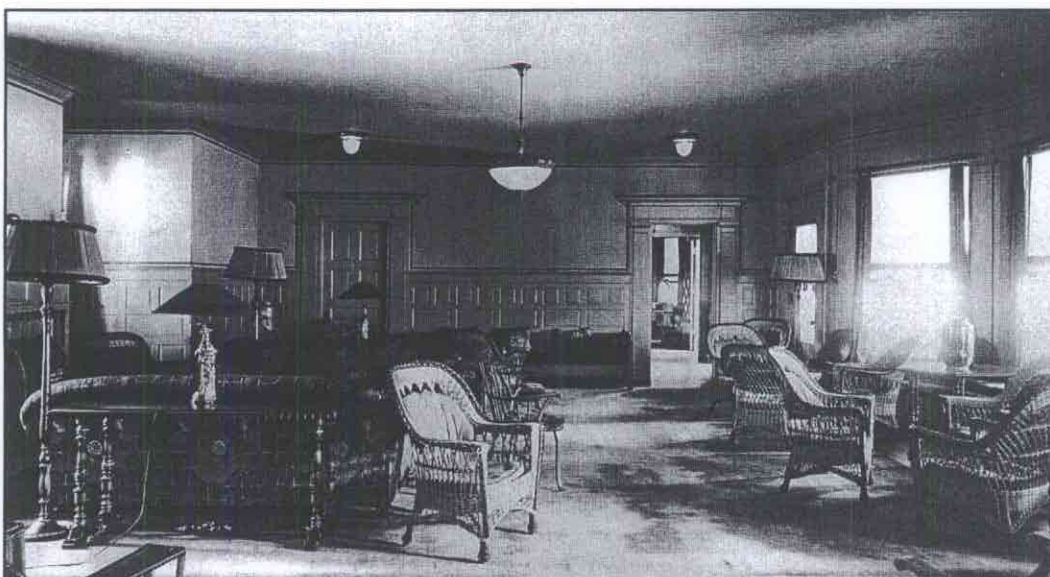
Ardo Mitchell's brother met me on the street one day and said, "Hey, Jean, we are going to have

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*The Grill Room at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1925. Notice the trophy case on the rear wall of the room along with pictures illustrating the rules of golf.*



*A fireplace, sofas, lamps, and wicker easy chairs fill the Middle Parlor at the Rock Island Golf Club in 1925.*

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an awful good membership at the Arsenal over there, have you ever thought about taking up golf?" "No," I said, "I play tennis". In those days, we didn't have very good women tennis players, and I played with all the good men players preparing myself to go on these trips to play in tennis tournaments. I joined the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1943 with a membership fee of \$25.00 per year. I didn't hit the ball very far, perhaps 180 yards, but it was down the middle with an excellent short game, hitting the ball within inches of the cup thereby parring almost every hole. I played a lot of holes with Tom Washburn. He was the youngest club champion we ever had. From 1951 until 1966, Tom was Club Champion seven times.

Thea Leclair came to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1953. She and her husband, Colonel Nelson Leclair, who served as the District Engineer at the Clock Tower, lived in Quarters Two on Arsenal Island until his retirement in 1955. Thea Leclair played in the Waterman Cup Tournament with Jean Totten during the fifties. Only four clubs, Short Hills, Oakwood, Davenport Country Club, and the Arsenal, participated in the tournament. There were eight ladies on a team from each club. A foursome was made up of one player from each club. They were all competing against each other. There were a certain number of points if you won. Nowadays, there are two players from each club in a foursome. Thea recalls the following<sup>22</sup>:

For years, the Friday 2-ball tournaments were a great success. It was a lot of fun gathering on the porches, trying to get under a fan. There was no air-conditioning in those days, but still a lot of fun. Our prizes were a golf ball or two. There was a bar upstairs in the Men's Grill Room. The fellows had lockers upstairs. We all brought our own bottle and ordered setups. The entertainment committee put on skits written by Ron Livingston and Millie Whitmore, otherwise we played the juke box. I really enjoyed playing two-ball. There used to be between eighty to one hundred members that played here every Friday night. It must have become too expensive for the players to play every Friday night. With the introduction of golf carts, the caddies were no longer needed. That is too bad. That was a marvelous education for the boys. They not only learned thoroughly the etiquette of golf but also trained the eye to find the ball as quickly as possible in order not to hold up the game. I love to play golf and I love this course.

Every Thursday was Ladies Day. I arranged a golf game called "Speed Ball". We would take bets on how fast a game of golf could be played in nine holes. It was a fund-raising affair. Someone would guess sixty minutes, others would guess forty-two, etc. The actual time was eleven minutes. I had Rosemary Mueller on the first tee. She was Club Champion nine times beginning in 1952 and runner-up three times during that twelve-year period. There were two more girls down the fairway, one on the right, one on the left, ready to hit Rosemary's ball wherever it landed. Wherever they hit down towards the green, there were two girls ready to putt it in. They didn't take time to putt. They just scooted it along into the cup and then tossed the ball toward the next tee. There was someone there to start the procedure all over again. The game was played in this manner for nine holes. The winning speed was 11 minutes and twenty seconds.

Although the golf course, designed by Colonel Stanhope E. Blunt in 1897, essentially remained the same, there have been several changes over the years. The Superintendent during the 1950s was Hank Hennings. He was responsible for conditioning and maintaining the golf course and equipment. There were 22 greens (18 putting, 2 practice, 1 pitching and a nursery green) that needed to be moved every day except Monday, soil tested, fertilized and aerated twice a year, watered daily in the early morning hours, and sprayed weekly for weed and insect control. Tees were moved at least twice a week, watered every other night during hot weather. Fifty acres of fairways were fertilized in the Spring and Fall and limed every other year. Sandtraps (19 out and 18 in) had to be cleaned and raked daily. The rough



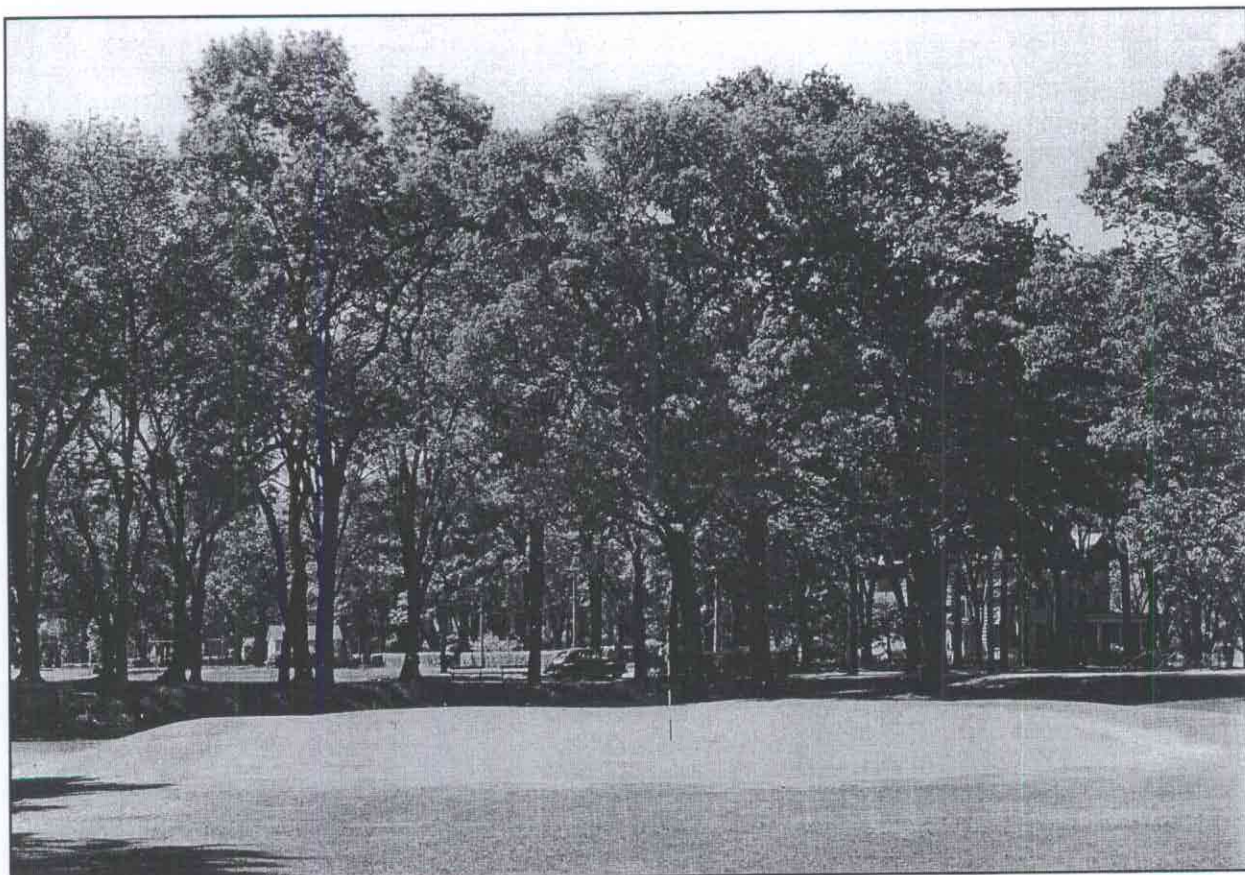


*A picturesque scene at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in October 1981. View toward the First Tee from the Practice Tee.*

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(approximately 50 acres) was cut weekly to a height of 2 inches during growing season.

Above all, Hennings concentrated on preserving the natural beauty of the golf course which was carved out of a primeval forest with stately oak, walnut and hickory trees some of which date back to the days of Black Hawk and his Native American ancestors. In 1959, Hennings planted honey locust and pine trees on the north side of #1 fairway. He removed trap and bunker from the west side of #5 fairway. The trap on the north side of #6 fairway was eliminated. On #14, the tee was extended north 20 yards. On #18, a large group planting of sycamores and oaks was made in the out-of-bounds area at the bend of the dogleg.



*Hole #15 Barracks looking west on May 26, 1953. The green is in the foreground.*

Unfortunately, each year several trees are lost due to acts of nature such as disease, old age, and lightning strikes. In 1980, thirty major trees were lost. A vigorous tree planting program through living memorials and club expenditures has been undertaken for decades. In the fall of 1977, sixty new trees were planted from the nursery throughout the course of which fifty survived the extreme winter. In 1979, a living memorial was planted near the second tee for Hank Stukart's father. Two years later, lightning rods were installed in certain trees on the course. During that year, \$5,000 was spent to purchase new trees since the nursery stock was depleted. In recent years, skunks and raccoons became a problem. In a

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# ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB MEN'S CHAMPIONS

## Year - Winner

1897 - W.S. Peirce  
 1898 - D.C. Horney  
 1899 - J.D. Cady  
 1900 - Walter Chambers  
 1901 - J.D. Cady  
 1902 - J.d. Cady  
 1903 - Leon Mitchell  
 1904 - J.D. Cady  
 1905 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1906 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1907 - R.S. Hosford  
 1908 - J.D. Cady  
 1909 - W.D. Middleton  
 1910 - Leon Mitchell  
 1911 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1912 - J.D. Cady  
 1913 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1914 - Leon Mitchell  
 1915 - Leon Mitchell  
 1916 - G. Decker French  
 1917 - G. Decker French  
 1918 - No Tournament  
 1919 - W.L. Velie Jr.  
 1920 - A.E. Smith  
 1921 - J.D. Cady  
 1922 - A.E. Smith  
 1923 - W.L. Velie Jr.  
 1924 - W.L. Velie Jr.  
 1925 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1926 - W.L. Velie Jr.  
 1927 - H.P. Lusk  
 1928 - Dr. M.W. Case  
 1929 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1930 - John W. Hanssen

## Year - Winner

1931 - G. Decker French  
 1932 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1933 - Dugald Porter  
 1934 - Ardo Mitchell  
 1935 - Peter Hass  
 1936 - Clement Trapkus  
 1937 - Clement Trapkus  
 1938 - Clement Trapkus  
 1939 - Thomas McCarthy  
 1940 - No Tournament  
 1941 - No Tournament  
 1942 - No Tournament  
 1943 - No Tournament  
 1944 - Bob Reagan  
 1945 - Lou Ehlers  
 1946 - Bob Reagan  
 1947 - Dr. Paul Barton  
 1948 - George Skinner  
 1949 - Lou Ehlers  
 1950 - Dr. Paul Barton  
 1951 - Tom Washburn  
 1952 - Dr. Paul Barton  
 1953 - Tom Washburn  
 1954 - Tom Washburn  
 1955 - Bob Wellman  
 1956 - Tom Washburn  
 1957 - Tom Washburn  
 1958 - Byron Swedberg  
 1959 - Bob Loufek  
 1960 - Tom Railsback  
 1961 - Bob Loufek  
 1962 - Bob Loufek  
 1963 - Al Howard  
 1964 - Tom Washburn

## Year - Winner

1965 - John Kettman  
 1966 - Tom Washburn  
 1967 - Byron Swedberg  
 1968 - John Kettman  
 1969 - Byron Swedberg  
 1970 - Jim Savage  
 1971 - Byron Swedberg  
 1972 - Byron Swedberg  
 1973 - Byron Swedberg  
 1974 - Vince Neu  
 1975 - Stan Smazal  
 1976 - John Kettman  
 1977 - John Kettman  
 1978 - Craig Rank  
 1979 - Byron Swedberg  
 1980 - John Carver  
 1981 - Gary Stoen  
 1982 - Dick Ellis  
 1983 - Joe Hanson III  
 1984 - Joe Hanson III  
 1985 - Al Fensterbusch  
 1986 - Al Fensterbusch  
 1987 - Tony Baxter  
 1988 - Tony Baxter  
 1989 - Ron Greenlee  
 1990 - Ron Greenlee  
 1991 - Dick Henning  
 1992 - Steve Horan  
 1993 - Mike Owens Sr.  
 1994 - Dick Henning  
 1995 - Ron Greenlee  
 1996 - Ron Greenlee

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humane manner, they were kept away from fairways by chemical application.

However, the greatest improvement came in July 1981 with the installation of the automatic sprinkling system for the course by Midwest Irrigation at a cost of \$225,000. It permitted the growth of grasses for lush fairways, tees and greens. In 1966, David A. Gill<sup>23</sup>, who obtained a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois in 1942, and had remodeled or expanded dozens of golf courses in the Midwest, came to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. He suggested several changes and made architectural drawings for the installation of the watering system for fairways and greens. During the 1970s, Roger Null succeeded Hank Hennings. He was followed by Jeff Scott and Jon Scott, the current Superintendent.



*At the left, Tom Washburn, Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Champion seven times; at the right, Byron Swedberg; he, too, was Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Champion seven times.*

Mrs. Velie presented the Velie Memorial Cup, the prestigious trophy for golf tournaments, to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club on June 6, 1929<sup>24</sup>. It was named in honor of Willard Velie, the nationally known manufacturer of automobiles in Moline. He played golf at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club every afternoon at 1:30 pm. It was noted that the cup would serve as a memorial and would be a stimulus to Tri-City interclub competition. Thus, it would make for a more completely rounded season of golf activities, heightening the interest and bringing clubs of the community into closer relationships.



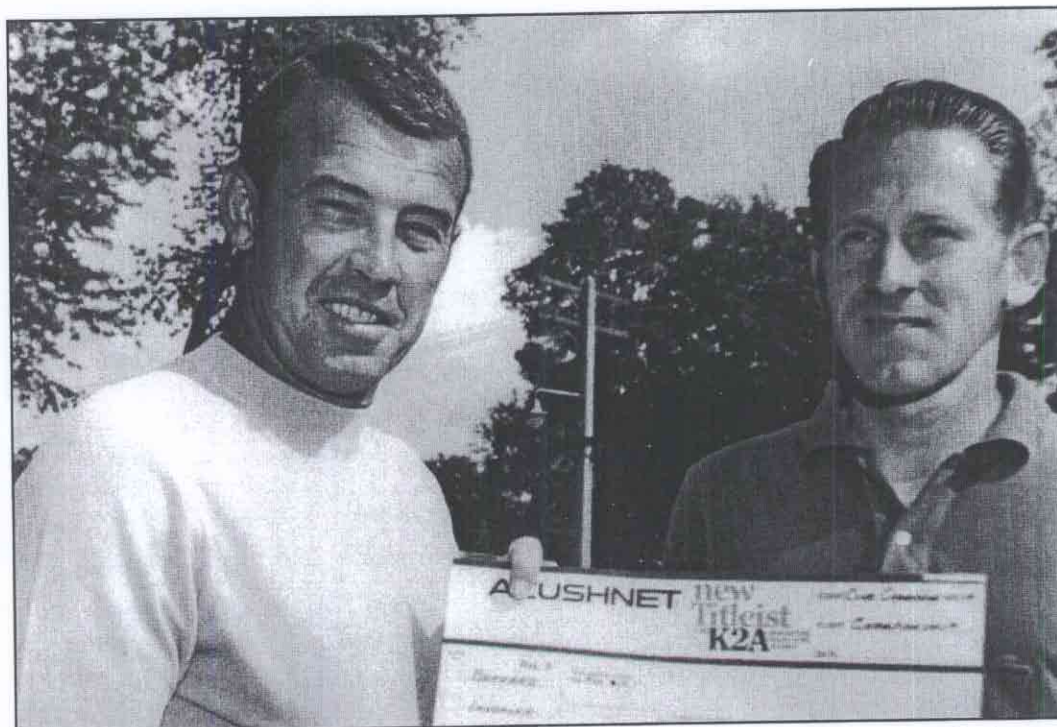


*The Velie Memorial Cup, a traveling trophy, donated in memory of Willard Velie to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1929. The matches provide competition between top men golfers of various private clubs in the Quad Cities. The Arsenal Golf Club won the cup in 1932, 1965, 1966 and 1967.*

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One of the top scratch scorers in the Velie Cup Tournament was Byron Swedberg<sup>25</sup>. Before Swedberg went into the army in 1943, he met Frank Forward, a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. They had played golf together at Saukie Golf Course. Frank was a pretty good golfer. He shot a 64 and Byron shot a 66. In 1958, Swedberg won his first Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club championship by beating Dr. Paul Barton who was Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Champion in 1947, 1950 and 1952. However, years before his win as Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Champion, Swedberg was runner-up three times.

When Byron Swedberg finally won his first of seven Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Championship titles in 1958, he no longer had to joke that he was "always a bridesmaid" as far as the club championship was concerned. Swedberg was battling to succeed Tom



*Byron Swedberg, at the left, defeated John Kettman, right, in a championship match at the Arsenal Golf Club in 1969.*

Washburn of Moline, who went into the Army after winning the club championship in 1957. According to The Argus, Swedberg played "tough and consistent golf over the 33 holes of his first title match. And when the bouquet was tossed his way on the 15th hole by Dr. Barton's short approach, he grabbed it without the least sign of a fumble".

In the years to follow, Swedberg qualified for numerous tournaments in the Quad Cities including winning the Velie Cup three times for the Arsenal, the Tri-City Amateur, now called the Quad City Amateur Tournament, and the Amateur Argus Golf Tournament. He was most pleased with his performance when he fired a 66 in the Argus Golf Classic in 1974. Nolan Hurt, The Argus sportswriter wrote: "Swedberg needed only 23 putts en route to a course-





*The Mueller Cup, donated to the Rock Island Arsenal in memory of Mr. Edward Mueller in 1952, to promote competition between the higher handicap men golfers of private clubs in the Quad Cities. Arsenal Golf Club won the trophy in 1950, 1960, 1963, 1976, 1977, and 1992.*

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record 66. The veteran golfer had six birdies and not a bogey."

Another scratch golfer for the Velie Cup was John Kettman. He was Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Champion in 1965, 1968, 1976, and 1977. John started playing in the tournament about 1949 or 1950. He lived about a block from the Davenport Country Club. One day, they needed an additional player. Whitey Barnard called John and said, "If you can get over here in 10 minutes, you can play." After that John played in the Velie Cup Tournament every year until 1995 with the exception of when he was in the Navy from 1955-1957. Reflecting on the past, John said<sup>26</sup>:

I joined the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1962. The reason I joined was because there was a group of about 20 players that always played every Sunday morning. Glen Scherer had a bottle of little balls with numbers on them. Each player drew a number and that determined with whom you played that day. There was always a skin game for the whole group plus various individual and team matches. Most of this group also played on Wednesday afternoon. The group became known as the "Mixed Nuts" group, since the person who had the highest score on the 17th hole had to buy the drinks. If there were ties for the high score on 17, it was played off on the 18th hole. There was also an advantage for the higher handicapper, if there was a difference of 4 strokes between their handicaps, the lower handicapper had to give 1 stroke to the other player on the 18th Hole.

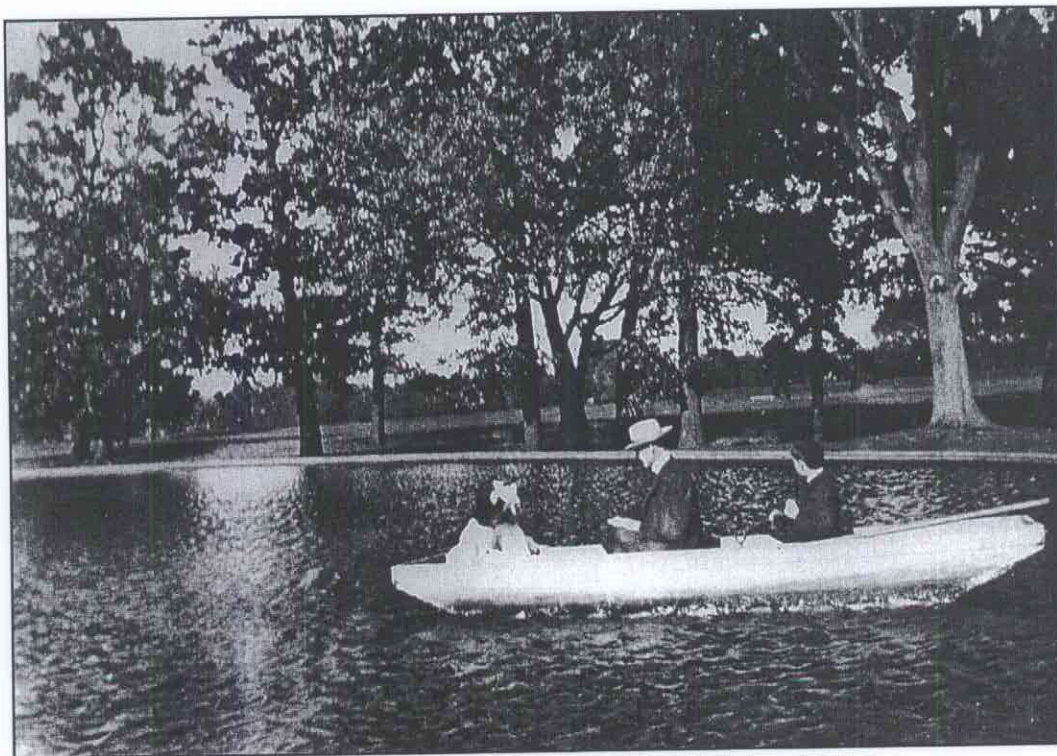
There have been quite a few good players at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club while I have been a member. Dr. Paul Barton had won the Iowa Amateur back in the 1930s. Dave Gross won the Iowa Amateur in the 1960's. Bob Loufek won the International Senior Amateur. Even our head greenskeeper, Roger Null, was a very good golfer. I was playing him one day. When we came to the 14th hole, I luckily hit about a 100 yard shot in the hole for an eagle 2. Roger was a couple yards ahead of me on the drive and promptly hit his ball in the hole also to tie the hole. It is pretty unusual to have two eagles on that hole in the same foursome. There have been many holes-in-one on the course over the years, but I don't think there have been many double eagles. I have been witness to two of them. One I made on the second hole with a four-wood second shot, and one that Mike Owens Sr. made on 15 in 1995 with a three-wood second shot.

The Mueller Cup matches were organized by private country clubs of the Quad Cities. The cup was donated to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in memory of Mr. Edward C. Mueller to promote competition between higher handicap men golfers. In 1960, the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Mueller Cup team won the Mueller Cup matches. That win ended the six-year domination of Short Hills Country Club in East Moline and marked the first time since 1950 that the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club had taken the first prize. Medalist for the day was Robert Fulton of Short Hills with a 75. In all, 15 golfers cracked the 80 mark. Leading the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was Jack Fensterbusch, who scored a 76; close behind were Ken Greene, John Reily, and Charles Marshall with 77s. In 1949, the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club team came in second.

Lewis B. Wilson joined the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club on March 15, 1934. Mr. Wilson, former president and chief-executive officer of the First National Bank in Rock Island, who occasionally played golf nearly sixty years ago with John Potter, publisher of The Argus and Charles Wiman, former president of Deere and Company, recalled the following anecdotes at age 96<sup>27</sup>:

When I was in high school at about 14 or 15 years of age, one of the kids in school said to me, 'Lewis, you always wanted to work. How would you like to wait on tables? I got a job for you at





*Boat ride on Punch Bowl Lake at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1905.*

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the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.' I said, I thought, I would go over and ask for a job as a caddie, I would probably do better doing that type of work. He took me to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club and introduced me to the manager, who said, 'How would you like to work at the "Punch Bowl", the 9th hole? There is a little building where you can sell sandwiches and refreshments instead of sitting around the clubhouse waiting to caddie.' I said, 'Sure' and got that job. Early in the morning, a non-commissioned officer, normally a sergeant, would push a cart to the building laden with items to sell and in the evening, he would push it back to the clubhouse. All I had to do was ride my bike out there. The "Punch Bowl" was a lake which served as a water hazard for the 10th hole. I had a good sideshow watching golfers hit balls into the water. At that time, the golfer with a handy oar and dip net could retrieve their ball. The sergeant would go out every day and fish balls out of the pond. Consequently, a lot of the golfers used floaters. On one occasion, the manager asked me to help out with a dinner in the evening. One of the younger Velies was entertaining some of his college friends. I asked the manager, 'What do I do? I never waited on tables before today.' He said, 'Just watch what the other waiters are doing and follow their example'. They would serve the food, then step back and stand. So, I did the same, I would serve the food, then step back and stand. These people were having a lot of fun at the table, and when they told a joke, I would laugh with them and join in the whole party. Pretty soon the manager called me and said, 'You are not a part of that party! You are a waiter here!' I replied, 'But I have never been a waiter before.' He said, 'And you are not going to be one for very long.' After the dinner that evening, the manager said, 'You are not going to be a waiter in this club any longer, you stay out there in that little building on number nine.'

At that time, there were two tennis courts near the clubhouse where there are now parking lots. Off to the right of where the pro shop is now, there was a shed. That was the caddies' headquarters. Each caddie would register in the morning and receive a number. There were, of course, players that had their own personal caddie. These caddies didn't have to wait their turn to earn fifteen to fifty cents. There was a woman named Lidia Copeman. She was caddie manager in the teens. She used call out 'Number 4' or 'Number 5', or whatever, and it was that caddie's turn to go to work. The Pro at that time was a Scotsman named Thomas McQuarrie<sup>28</sup>. He was a real gentleman. When he gave a lesson, he wore a necktie, a jacket, and knickers. He was all class, a real gentleman.

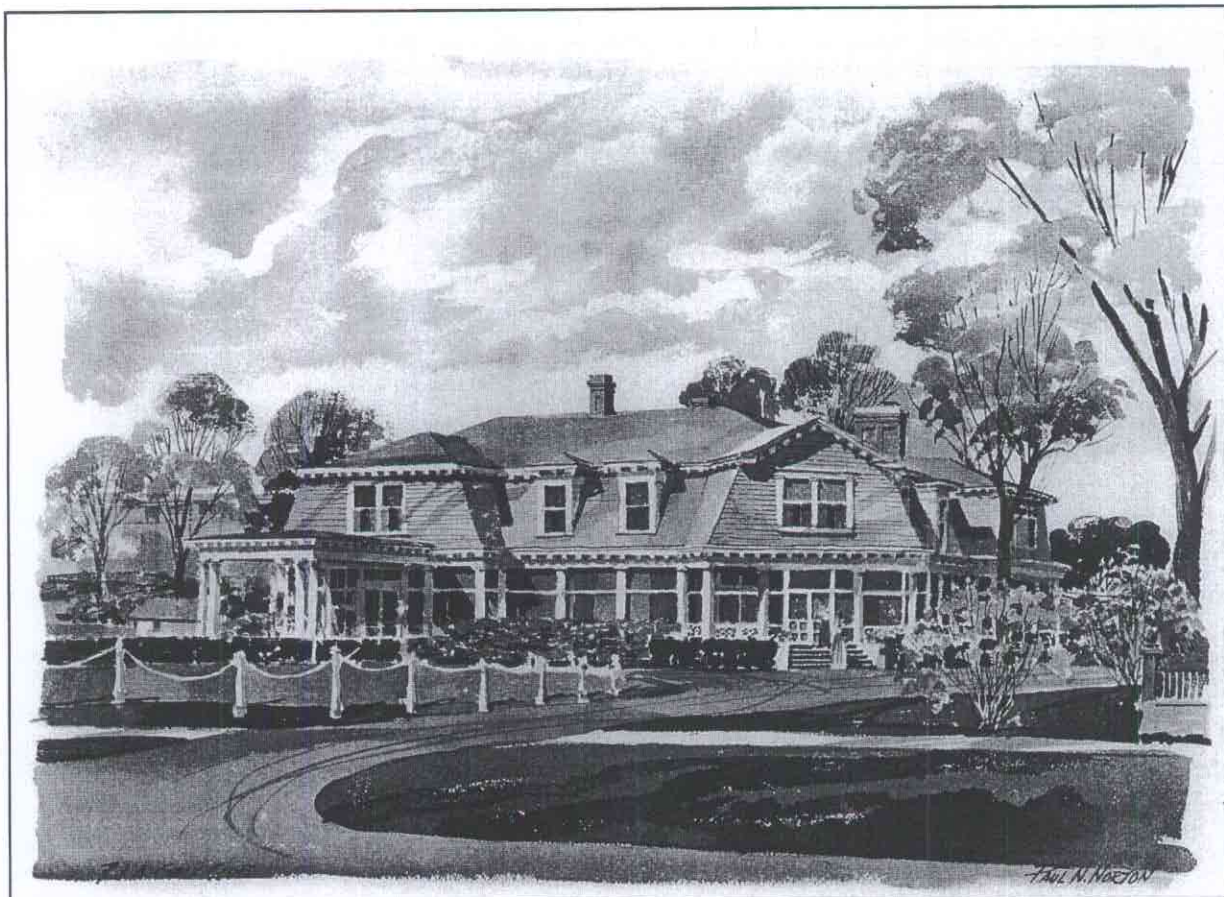
Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Gillespie, President of the club, told the members of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1935, that Thomas McQuarrie would give free instruction in golf to the children of the members in good standing beginning on Tuesday, June 11, at 9 a.m.<sup>29</sup> The children had to be 13 years of age or under. Instructions were given for one hour to classes of at least six children until further notice. For those that did not have their own equipment, a limited number of clubs were available. This was the beginning of the youth program at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

Paul Bell succeeded Thomas McQuarrie as Golf Professional at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1942. Following Paul Bell, Ike Cheves came to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club as a Golf Professional in 1958 and remained for about ten years. Thereafter, he moved to Walterboro, South Carolina. He was succeeded by Steve Gragg who was Golf Professional until 1975 when Hank Stukart, the current Pro, arrived.

In 1967, a set of rules governing playing times were established which included those for juniors (12 years and over) and children. Juniors who were not qualified had to attend seminars given by the golf professionals before they were allowed playing privileges on the golf course. Steve Gragg reported in 1969 that the Junior Golf Program had 57 juniors enrolled in the program. He was very encouraged with the turnout.

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*"The Clubhouse". Painting by Paul Norton in 1974. One of four watercolors and prints commissioned by the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club to decorate the clubhouse and benefit the Junior Golf Program.*

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In 1973, Paul Norton<sup>30</sup> was contracted to decorate the Upstairs Grill with a painting and some of his prints. He created four original watercolors for the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. They included one of the clubhouse, and one each of holes 13, 15, and 17. One thousand prints each were made of the clubhouse and 17th hole, and 500 each of the other two. The first 300 each were signed and numbered. No further prints were to be made. A portion of the proceeds was to benefit the Junior Golf Program at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

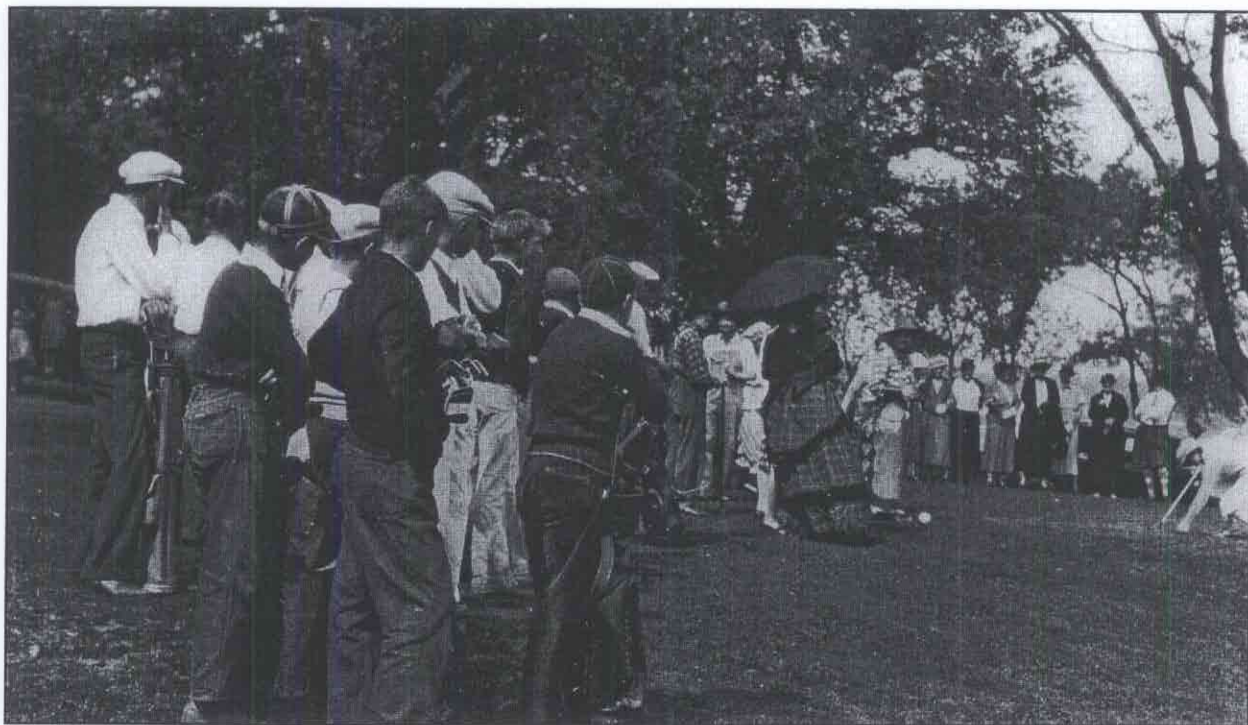
On August 29, 1975, Hank Stukart<sup>31</sup> was retained as the Golf Professional of the club. Since the Junior Golf Program had become so successful with increased participation, it was proposed that the course be reserved for junior golfers on Friday mornings between 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Stukart gave golf lessons on Friday mornings to boys and girls from the age of five until they were seniors in high school. Twelve of the best boy golfers belonged to the "Sunshine Team". It was named after Sunshine Aquipinnian, a golfer from Short Hills Country Club. He started the Sunshine Cup tournament in which only boys participated. The girls formed the "Sunflower Team". There were Sunshine and Sunflower teams at various clubs throughout the Quad Cities. Once a year, teams from the various clubs participated in a championship tournament. Each club was identified by a shirt of a different color. The Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club Sunshine Team team had white shirts with green lettering. At the conclusion of the event, there were free hamburgers and drinks for the participants.

In 1977, the Junior Golf Program at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club had 84 children. The following year, the boys were second in the Sunshine Cup tournament, and the girls second in the Sunflower Cup tournament. In 1979, the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club won the championship of the Sunflower Cup. In addition, the staff maintained an all-summer Junior Golf Program as well as a series of ladies' clinics. The junior program continued to grow. The Sunflower girls team won the team title for the third straight year in 1981.

In 1982, Hank Stukart conducted a Golf-A-Thon and raised \$2,200 for the purchase of golf bags for Sunshine and Sunflower Teams of the Junior Golf Program. The participants played ten rounds of golf in ten hours averaging 55 minutes per round. It started at 8:00 in the morning and finished at 6:00 in the evening. There were fore-caddies to fix the divots and carts to speed up the game. If you missed two shots, you were behind the group. Donors received bag-tags. An additional \$600 was raised by the event to be used to construct a display of all the rewards won by the Junior Golf Program. In 1982, it was expanded to include children of social members. A plaque was awarded to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club for participating in the Iowa PGA Section Golf-A-Thon for the funds donated to that section to be used in promoting junior golf. The committee studied various ways to use the money, including the possibility of school scholarships for junior golfers. In 1983, ninety-nine young people participated in the Junior Golf Program. Four years later, children of all members were able to join the Junior Golf program.

On Tuesday evening, August 12, 1952, a matched set of golf clubs and other prizes were presented to the winners of the Sturtevant Caddie tournament at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club's annual caddie party. The evening program included dinner, golf movies, and the awards presented by Kenneth Sturtevant of the Sturtevant Dairy Products Company.





*At the left, a group of caddies at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club wait patiently as the ladies tee off in a tournament on August 30, 1934.*

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On September 18, 1988, the former caddies donated a gazebo to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club as a memorial to all the former caddies. It is located on Hole #3. John Meenan was one of those former caddies from 1936-1938. His extensive research indicated that there were approximately 300 caddies at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club of whom more than 100 attend the Caddie Reunion each year. John remembers his days as a caddie quite vividly and with enthusiasm<sup>32</sup>. He said each caddie was assigned a number. About 25 or 30 caddies arrived at the clubhouse at 7:00 am and registered at the window of Mrs. Lidia Copeman. According to Ray Nyquist, who caddied during the late 1920's, the caddies raced their bikes down Gillespie Avenue to the clubhouse in order to be first in line.

After registering, a caddie would go to the caddie shack, a small building equipped with benches, and wait for his number to be called. Mrs. Lidia Copeman was manager of the club and supervised the caddies. The boys were between the ages of thirteen and sixteen. They had to be strong enough to carry a bag with 14 clubs and be able to watch the ball, especially when it went into the rough. In those days, the rough was really high, so the caddies would help each other out by getting a line on the ball where it landed. They had to learn the rules of golf and be familiar with golf etiquette. In those days, if a ball landed on the green, it was left there. The ball was not marked as it is today. If it was in line, one had to chip over it. If a player hit the ball on the green, the caddie had to know at what location the ball was hit so he could return it to its original position on the green. Marking the ball did not begin until the mid-forties or so.

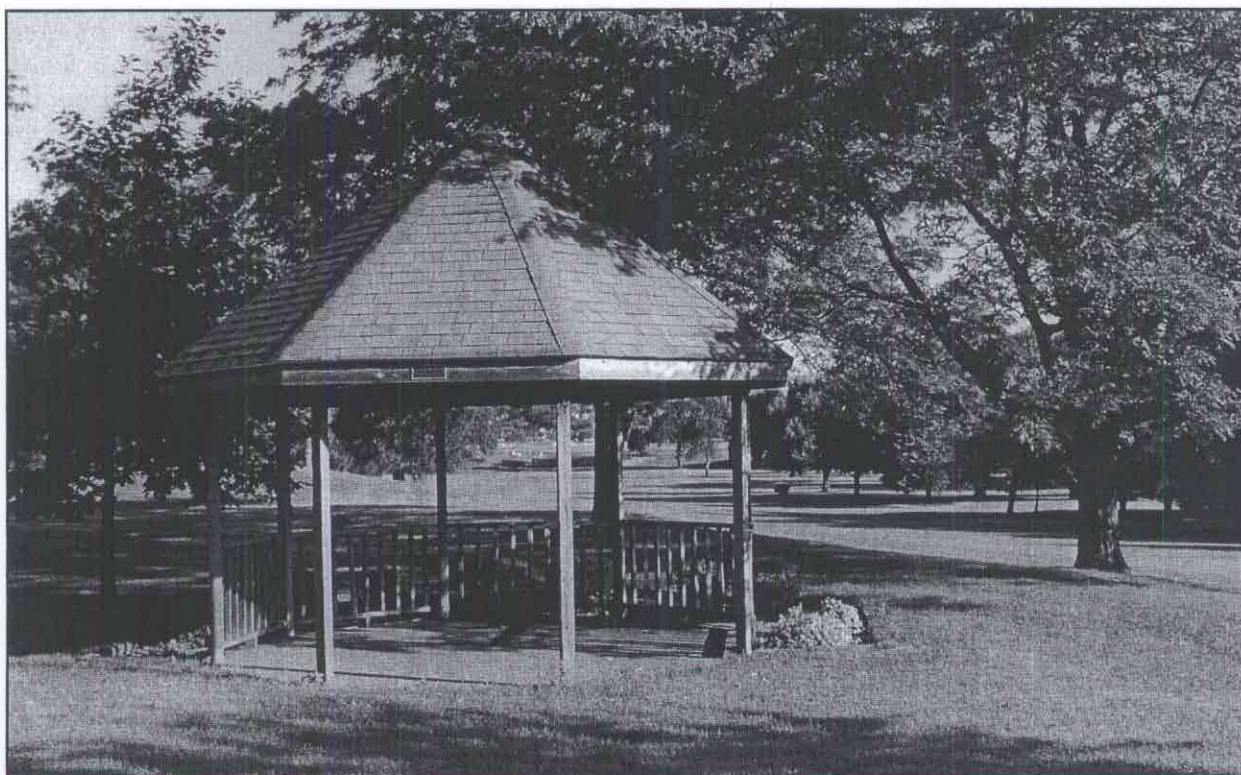
At the end of the round, the player and the caddie had to sign a ticket verifying the number of holes played. This ticket was turned into Mrs. Copeman and the caddie would receive his pay once a week. The "Honor" Class caddies received 75 cents for 18 holes. The "A" Class caddies received 65 cents, and the "B" Class 55 cents for caddying 18 holes.

Caddies were also asked to shag balls on the practice range. For an hour of shagging, the caddies would receive payment the equivalent of caddying nine holes of golf. All classes of caddies received 45 cents per hour for retrieving the practice balls of their players. Aside from his weekly wages, the caddie was entitled to play golf or swim in the new swimming pool each Monday morning from 7:00 am until noon. They learned to play golf helping each other and by watching the players on the course. The caddies furnished their own equipment, which for some was only one club, the only thing they could afford.

The Caddie Tournament, held once a year, was divided into three classes: Championship Class, Class A, and Class B. The winners received a small loving cup. There were two or three caddies that became Tri-City champion. Stan Trapkus was a champion three times, and Charlie Van Ooteghem was the champion for a number of years. On August 30, 1933, the following article appeared in The Argus:

Clement Trapkus, a 17-year-old Moline youth, annexed the Arsenal Golf Club caddie championship for the second successive year late yesterday, defeating Robert Peterson, 15, of Rock Island, 6 up 5, in their 36-hole final match. Trapkus led the challenger, 2 up, at the half-way mark yesterday noon. The two finalists began their last 18 holes at 2 o'clock, but Peterson, who had rallied near the end of the first 18, faltered, and Trapkus rolled up a big lead that spelled victory. Long iron shots, in addition to accurate approaches, brought the championship to Trapkus, who averaged





*At the left, the gazebo donated to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in memory of the former caddies of the club. At the right is No. 3 fairway.*

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nearly 240 yards on his drives.

Since the boys were working on a government reservation, the caddie program came to a sudden end in 1958. According to government standards, the boys had to be sixteen years of age in order to work. At that time they were getting about 75 cents or more per round. The top wage was two dollars a round.

John R. Cervantes, another former caddie at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, has many fond memories of the days that he spent at the Rock Island Arsenal golf course. John said he was incredulous when he first learned that riding carts had replaced caddies there. "We live in a time when we're always looking for some activity that provides youth a job in a healthy environment with proper role models". John believes caddying at the Arsenal did that for most caddies.

John's family were illegal immigrants from Mexico<sup>33</sup>. His father worked for the railroad in Moline, where his family lived in a boxcar. A visiting nurse introduced John to James Lardner who wrote a letter of recommendation for John to become a caddie. During the depth of the depression in 1933, John's father lost his job with the railroad, and with it the free rent in the boxcar. One of John's closest friends was Jack Railsback. His father owned an empty house in Moline and offered to let the Cervantes family move into it, telling John he knew the rent would be paid whenever he could. Shortly after John's four younger brothers, his two younger sisters, his parents, and John moved into the house, John's father died. Nevertheless, John continued to dream of going to college, but there were only a few days left before college began; and the prospect of saving \$90 for the first semester's tuition at Augustana College seemed very, very dim. The only way he could think of was to become a special caddie for the championship of the Men's Annual Golf Tournament. Fortunately, a man John admired, Ardo Mitchell, a gentleman in his mid fifties, asked John to be his caddie for the championship tournament.

Ardo's opponent was Joe VonMaur Jr., a brash and flamboyant young man in his early twenties. At the end of the 17th hole, Joe decided to take the short leg of the dog-leg over the trees to hit the green in one shot. The ball hit the very last and highest branch of a tree and whipped it out-of-bounds. The match was over! Ardo was the winner, and so was John Cervantes. He had earned \$45 for all the tournament rounds, and Ardo gave him a \$30 tip. John went to "Augie" and the University of Illinois where he received a B.S. and Masters in Romance Languages so that he could teach French and Spanish. Since he was an illegal immigrant, he could not teach school unless he was a United States citizen. He enlisted in the Army and served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. After the war, John moved to California where he was appointed to the Council of Human Relations for the Los Angeles City Schools. In his book My Moline, A Young Illegal Immigrant Dreams, John said:

Caddying at the Rock Island Arsenal remains one of the most satisfying and pleasant jobs in my memory probably because I met so many quality people in various ranks. Mrs. Copeman was one such person. She started calling me "Mex". I noticed that she had a nickname for most of her favorite caddies, co-workers, and even the club members. Of course, she called several of them "Swede", one of them "Dane", and my classmate, Carl Hokanson, "Chink". In turn, Mrs. Copeman was usually referred to by players, caddies, and other employees as "Copie". We used to receive a written statement to caddie for a specific player from Mr. Arndt, our caddiemaster. Then we went



# REUNION OF FORMER ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL GOLF CLUB CADDIES

Ague, Ken	Efflandt, Ralph	Kling, Robert	Quigley, Gary
Amoto, Frank P.	Enright, Kenny	Kling, Albert	Quigley, Mike
Amoto, Salvatore	Faust, Johnny	Kramer, Carl R.	Radosevich, Larry
Amoto, Tony	Feliksiaka, Ed	Lank, M. Francis	Radosevich, Robert
Amoto, Vincent	Feliksiaka, John	Liljeberg, Jack	Ramirez, Frank
Anderson, M.H.	Fensterbusch, R.	Liljeberg, Richard	Ramirez, Manual
Anderson, Richard	Fischer, Paul	Loken, Phillip L.	Reddington, Jim
Aubry, Al	Flider, Gus	Loken, Phillip	Rice, Jeff
Aubry, Bill	Ford, Paul	Lorenz, William H.	Rumler, Arnold
Aubry, Joe	Gillen, Carl	Maenhout, Leonard	Schade, Skip
Aubry, Richard	Gillen, Dave	Maloney, Tom	Sheets, Bud
Bigham, Howard 2	Gillen, Roy	McCarthy, Ed	Smartsy, Richard
Blackman, James	Gillespie, Tom	McCormack, John	Sneath, Larry
Bossuyt, Maurice J.	Gluba, Bill	McKeever, Allan W.	Steele, Duane
Campana, Richard	Goldsberry, Ted	Meenan, John	Taylor, Robert
Carron, James	Griffee, Donald	Meenan, Robert	Trapkus, Stanley
Cervantes, Leonard	Guyer, Duane	Miers, Jack	Trout, Martin
Cervantes, John R.	George, Hall, Jr.	Miller, Vernon J.	Tschopp, Eugene
Christiansen, Jack	Hallgren, Robert	Mordhorst, Richard	Tschopp, Orvillet
Colon, Hector	Hallgren, Warren	Nissen, Myron	Van Ooteghem, C.
Coopman, Frank	Hoffmann, R.K. M.D	Nyquist, Maynard	Van Speybrock, M.
Coopman, Pete	Hofmann, Michael	Nyquist, Ray	Vercautren, Dave
Corbin, Donald W.	Holmgrain, Dale	Olson, Chester H.	Vercautren, Ed.
Crawford, Paul	Hopkins, Gerald	Olson, Gilbert	Vondergathen, H.
Daebelliehn, J.	Horton, Ralph, E.	Osborn, Bob	Welander, John
Dejonghe, George	Impens Jr., R.	Ovens, William	Wells, Dr. Robert
Dejonghe, John	Ingwersen, Noel	Palos, Augie	Wells, John E.
Dejonghe, Robert	Ingwersen, Stewart	Palos, Paul	Wells, Joseph R.
Derocker, Frank	Jawoisz, Nick	Palos, William	Wendlin, Chalmer
Dorward, Bill	Kaas, Donald	Papenhausen, R.E.	Wetzel, John
Duncan, Robert	Kananishu, Tim	Patterson, Ken	White, Jack M.
Dupont, Emil T.	Karlix, Don	Petersen, Ken	Zelnio, Stan
Duran, F.	Katz, Isadore	Pickett, Bob	Zelnio, Tony
Edwards, Art E.	Ketron, Bob	Pieper, Bruce	Zvonik, Dwight
Efflandt, Lloyd H.	Kipp, Conrad W.	Pierce, Dave	Zwer, Mitchel

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to the "Pro" shop where Gus Flider handed us the proper golf bag.

Gus did a variety of jobs for Thomas McQuarrie, the golf pro. Gus was always pleasant and courteous to the caddies. He only turned taciturn when any Moline High School team was defeated...Gus was generally as friendly as Thomas McQuarrie was aloof. Gus, "Copie", Mr. Arndt, and all the caddies understood that they were kind of day-to-day casual servants of the golfers, but Thomas was circumspectly trying to become more.

I worked every day but one (illness due to a bee sting) between 1928 and 1934. I caddied for Moline magnates such as Charles Deere Wiman, Burton F. Peek, Ben Butterworth, Frank Silloway, Herman Nelson, Willard L. Velie Jr., Frank G. Allen, and Harry C. Good. I firmly believe, any golfer can witness to the fact that golf may not be much of a builder of character, but it certainly does reveal the human values and personal characteristics of the golfer.

Merritt Faust<sup>34</sup>, known as Johnny Faust, also wanted to earn some money while going to school. At first he delivered the Moline Dispatch. When he heard about caddying at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, he filled out an application and arrived at the club early Sunday morning.

Since the club needed caddies badly at the time, they sent Johnny out to the course, without any training, to caddy for Mrs. Harry Good who was Ladies Club Champion in 1928 and 1929. She was very helpful. She told Johnny where to stand on the tee, how to carry the golf clubs, and how to hold the flag stick. He began caddying in 1927 and continued caddying until he graduated from high school in 1930. He gave half of his earnings to his mother.

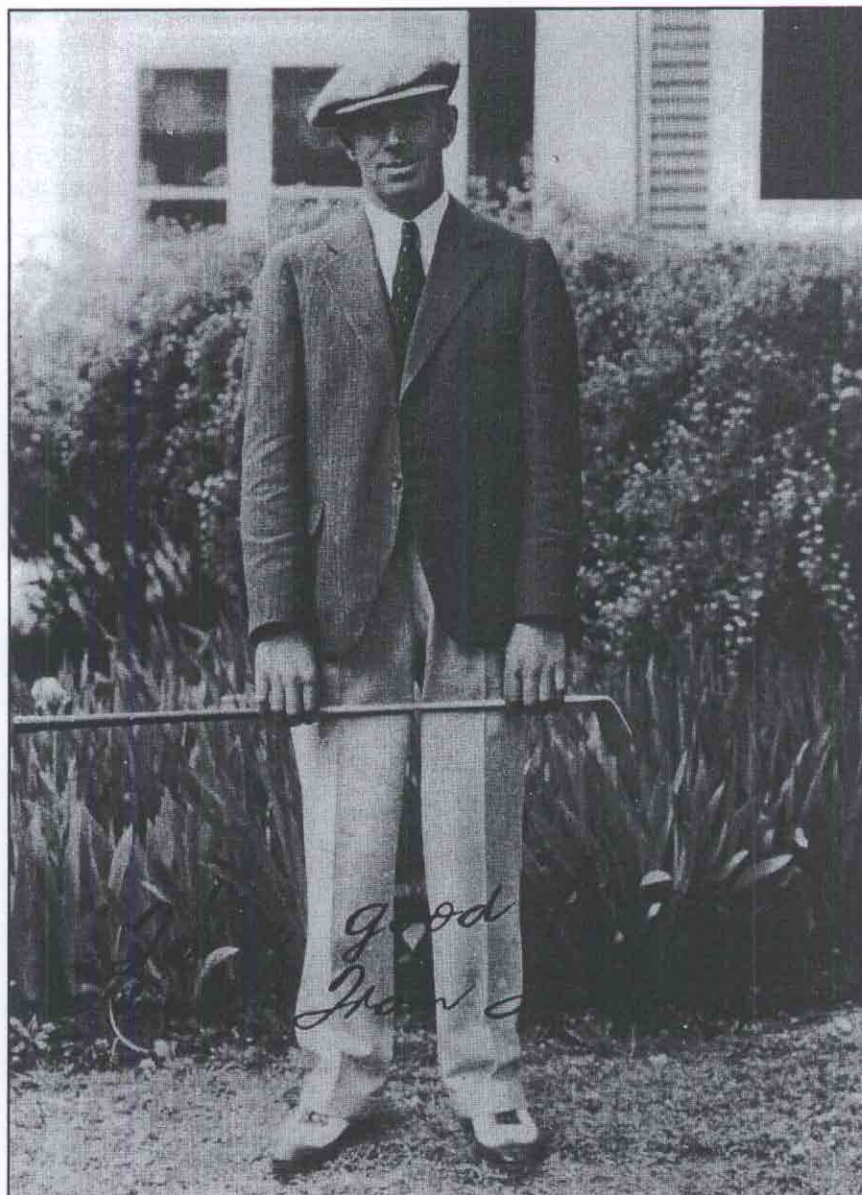
In the days and years that followed, caddying at golf clubs became very popular among students from various schools throughout the Quad City area. Each morning, scores of caddies raced over the bridges crossing the Mississippi River to Arsenal Island in order to be first to register at Mrs. Copeman's window at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, creating disappointments and chaos.

Mrs. Copeman solved the problem by permitting caddies to cross the Mississippi River over the bridges on alternate days. For example, those caddies who lived in Rock Island and Davenport were permitted to register first on Monday by using the Government Bridge. Those who lived near Farmall crossed the river next over the 43rd Street Bridge, a wooden structure built for streetcars, trolleys, and pedestrians. Those who lived in Moline registered last and were asked to use the Moline Bridge which crossed the river over the Sylvan Slough. On Tuesday, the rotation would change. On some days, the caddies wouldn't get out because they were the last to register.

During his days as a caddie at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, Johnny Faust caddied for practically all the prominent people. At times Johnny carried two bags of clubs with one bag on each shoulder. That was especially true for the big hitters such as the Mitchell brothers, Lusk and Velie Jr. They hit the ball so far the caddies couldn't see them from the tee. For this reason, one caddie gave his bag of clubs to another caddie and ran far ahead to watch the ball fall, many of them into the woods. Therefore, one caddie carried double and the other carried no bag, since he was the fore-caddie watching the ball. This practice speeded up the game. After nine holes, the caddies switched their assignments.

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*Thomas McQuarrie, Golf Professional standing at the side of the clubhouse of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club in 1932. The inscription reads "To a good friend from Thom".*

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Johnny established his goals at an early age and accomplished every one of them. He never shot over 100 for 18 holes all of his life, shot two holes-in-one, and shot his age several times. He became a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, a member of its Board, and President of the Club.

Frank DeRocker<sup>35</sup> was a caddie in 1928, 1929, and part of 1930. After graduating from high school, Frank attended Bradley University, became a teacher and taught school for 39 years. He initiated a pilot program for underprivileged and orphaned boys at Arrowhead Ranch in Milan.

Frank's older brother, Mead, was also a caddie at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, as well



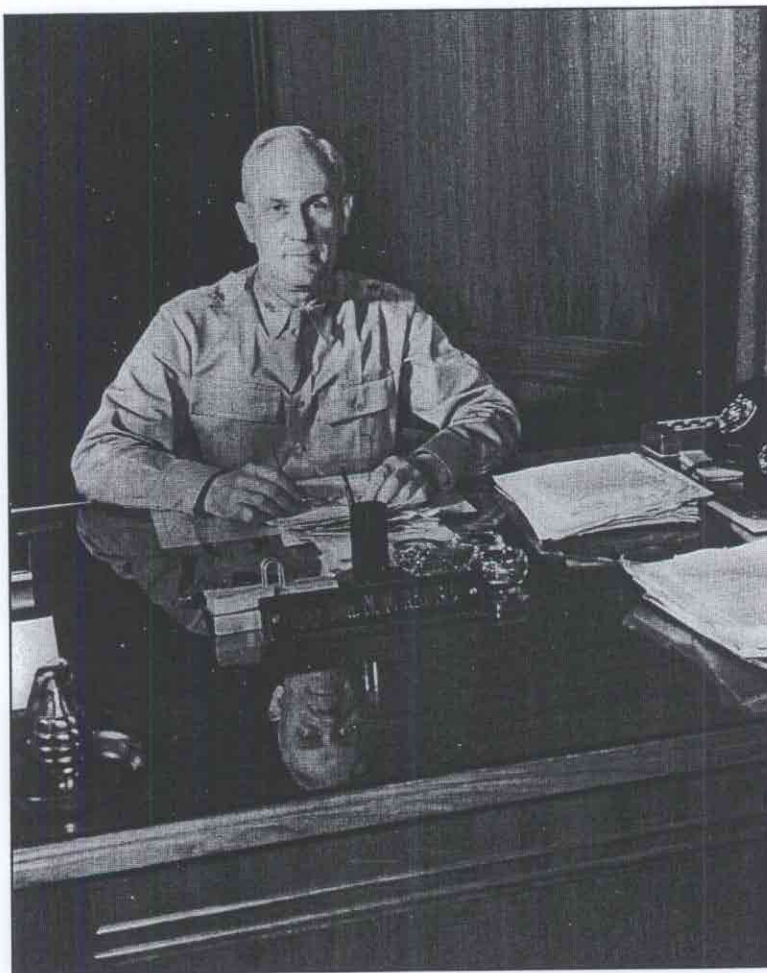
*Clubhouse of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club looking northwest in 1957. The pro shop and cart storage shed are in the foreground at the left. Between the wings of the building is the flight of stairs leading to Mrs. Copeman's window.*

as his younger brother, Will. The caddiemaster was Mr. Arndt, who had a little house next to the clubhouse which served as a caddieshack. However, Mrs. Copeman did all the hiring and firing of the caddies, established the rules, and enforced them. There were certain standards that were set, and the caddies had to live up to them, such as neatness, politeness, promptness, and no conversation with the player unless he asked a question. Mrs. Copeman wanted to assure the membership that her caddies were all young gentlemen.

Frank was asked to caddie for a group of well-known business men from Rock Island who had problems with their vision. These players were in the upper age group. They didn't have very many fancy clubs, nor elaborate bags. Frank was the only caddie for the foursome, so

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*Brigadier General Norman F. Ramsey, Commanding Officer of the Rock Island Arsenal from 1937-1944.*

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he carried all four bags, with two on one shoulder and two on the other. He was happy to to carry the four bags. Instead of receiving 55 cents for caddying 18 holes, Frank received \$2.25. That was a lot of money for a youngster to earn during the depth of the depression. Furthermore, the four bags of clubs were not as heavy to carry as two bags from some of the other players.

The Board of Governors of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, headed by its president who until 1953 was the Commanding Officer at the Arsenal, has the final word in selecting the Golf Professional for the club, the Club Manager, the Course Superintendent, setting the club fees, approving assessments and improvements in buildings and grounds, and other matters pertaining to club activities.

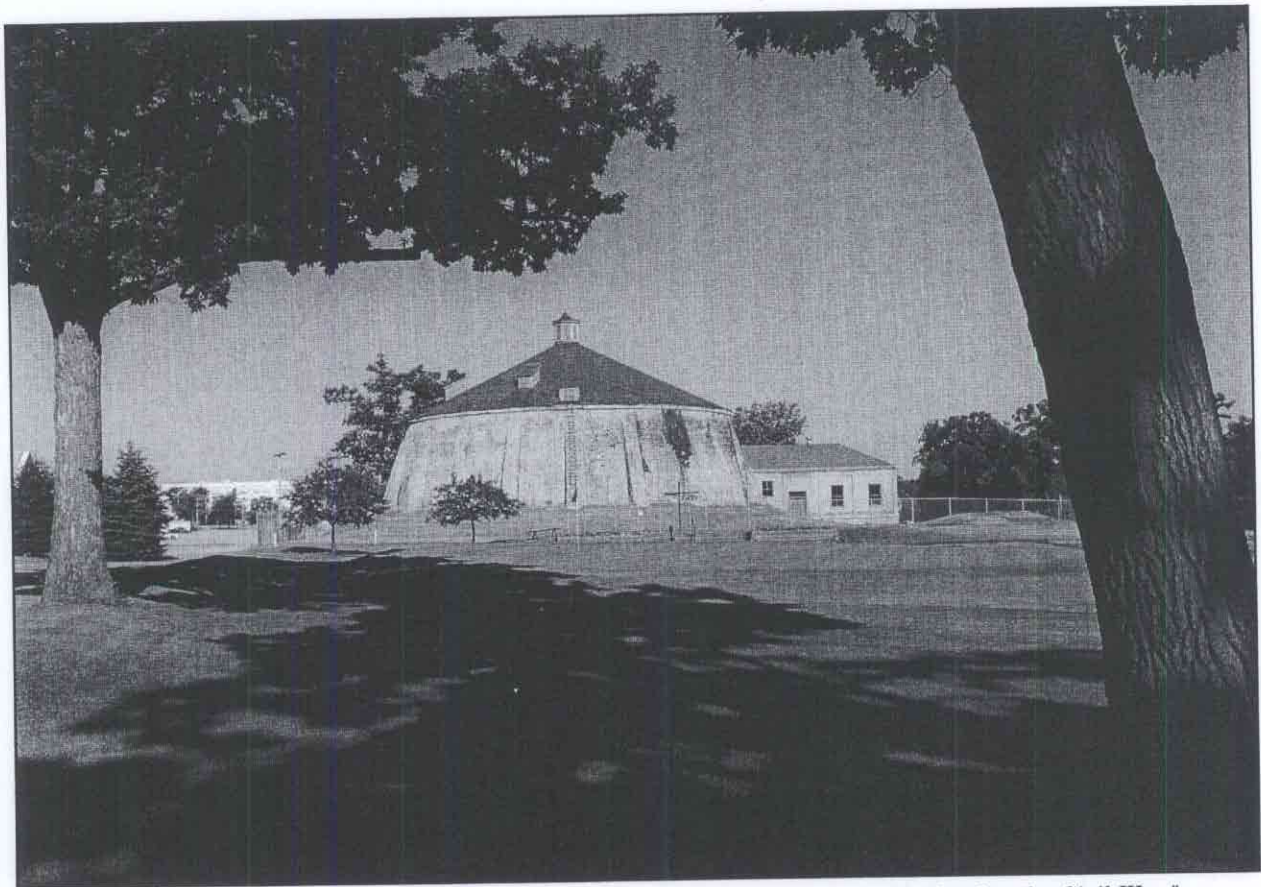
Lewis B. Wilson, a member of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club for more than six decades, and other long-time members of the club agree that the character and quality of the officers in the military associated with the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, such as the commanding generals, colonels, and majors, have been marvelous throughout the years. It was a fine group of officers in their social relationship at the club, be it Colonel King, Colonel Warner, or Brigadier General Norman F. Ramsey, to name a few.

With the advice and consent of the Board of Governors, the golf course and clubhouse have undergone constant change throughout the years. In 1960, the building committee recommended the following renovations to the clubhouse at a cost of \$58,200 to be completed by July 1960: enlarge the Ladies' Locker Room to accommodate 145 lockers, provide a Ladies' Lounge, provide golf club storage for 450 bags (without carts), purchase 180 golf carts to be used free of charge by members whose clubs are stored at the clubhouse, (other members and guests to pay rent), and extend the pro shop to the south. Thus, by the time the 80th anniversary of the club came around in 1977, Colonel Blunt would have been amazed to know that the game of golf would still be played on the grounds where he laid out the first course and that the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club would have grown and prospered to become one of the most prestigious courses in the entire Quad City area.

According to an article in the Times in 1977, Bob Mulvihill, who had been Manager of the Club since 1964, said that the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was a gracious club with old-time swirling fans, lovely porches, and comfortable furnishings. Its profile had been low-key. Certainly the Arsenal course was the first in the Quad Cities. At first, the Arsenal course was strictly "Colonel Blunt's affair". Bob Mulvihill said Colonel Blunt invited his own guests and the grounds were taken care of by soldiers stationed at the Arsenal. When the club was formed, the Commanding Officer of the Arsenal was automatically the president, and his staff officers served as club officers. In those days, the old-line families of Davenport - like the Frenches, the Wimans, and so on - were socially involved with the Arsenal just as they are today. Pioneer golfers sliced and dubbed their way over the first five holes wearing plus-fours (knickers), argyle sweaters, and ties. They teed off from a sandy area where the soil could be shaped into a mound to serve as a golf tee. The club had served as a family meeting place for the area's influential families for generations. The club had always been an extension of the home, Mulvihill said. The Commanding Officer of the Rock Island Arsenal sits on the Board of Governors, but otherwise the club is completely divorced from the Arsenal. The land

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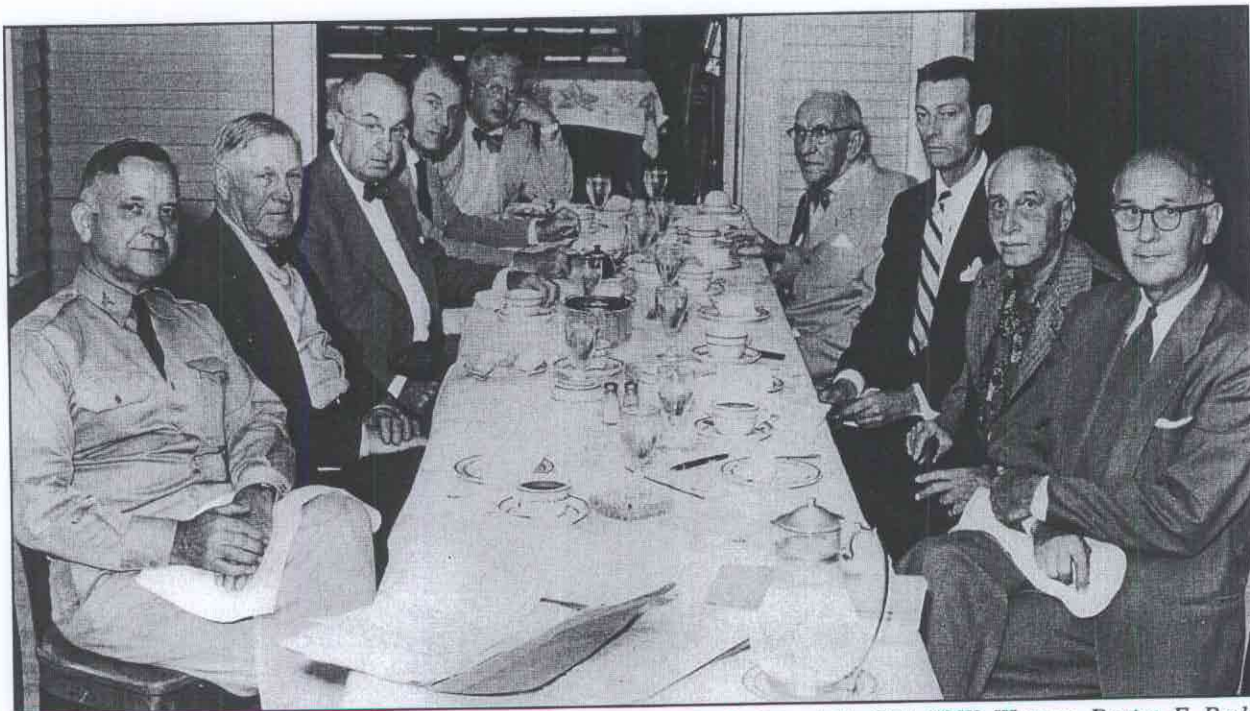




*"Our water, by the way, came from a reservoir designed by Colonel Rodman and built after the Civil War," Mulhivill said in 1977. Today, it is a landmark and no longer serves as a fresh water supply."*

is leased from the government, much as a Montana sheep rancher leases his land from the government. There is a special military membership, Mulvihill pointed out.

The Club's Centennial Book would not be complete without mentioning James Williams. In 1947, Paul Bell, the Golf Professional of the Club at the time, was wintering in the southern part of Florida. He convinced James to leave his home in that part of the world, to go north, and to become an employee at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. James was head waiter and bartender at the Club for 47 years. He served at many weddings and social events and went out of his way to care for the needs of each individual member. On numerous occasions, he chauffeured members to Florida during the winter months. This gave him an opportunity to visit his mother in Vero Beach, Florida. His dedication to the Club and its members will



*Board of Governors, Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club, 1952-1953. Left to right: COL W.W. Warner, Burton F. Peek, Burt Dow, David D. Palmer, F.B. White, Herman Nelson, James Shevlin, Ardo W. Mitchell, and Lloyd Keepers. Absent, C.I Josephson, C.P. Conrad, and Milton L. Hronek.*

long be remembered, aside from the fact that he was an avid "Cub" fan.

Carl B. Schmidt, Davenport, had been typical of the long-time members in 1977. His father, Oscar, before him had been a member, and together with Carl had held a membership for some 70 years. He still played golf at least twice a week. A third generation of the Arthur J. Hass family was among those enjoying golf. Hass, who was president in the late 1950's, still played golf regularly at the club. His son, John Hass, of Rock Island, president of Valley Construction Co., was the new Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club president. At 36, he was the youngest president ever to serve the club. "I've been a member since I was a baby," John Hass said, "and now my son, John Jr., plays golf here too." Hass stressed that membership had





*The clubhouse in 1977. It has been remodeled and enlarged over the years. At the right, a foursome enjoys a game of bridge on the enclosed Veranda added in 1973. The women are (from left clockwise) Mrs. Sid Glossip, Mrs. E.B. Sigler, Mrs. Eric Strutz, and Mrs. E.G. Gindelsparger, all of Rock Island.*

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always been made up of the area's business and professional people. To become a member in 1977, one had to be sponsored by two Senior Members and approved by the Board of Governors.

Club members were able to use the club to host luncheons, dinner-dances, wedding receptions, and anniversary parties. Meals were served every noon and night, seven days a week during the summer and six days a week during the off season. Mulvihill stood on the porch of the clubhouse where revolving fans twirled overhead and said, "Imagine the famous people who have walked across this porch. Most of the luncheons for the Tri-City Symphony artists were held here, for instance, so we got to see famous musicians and performers in a relaxed and casual mood. And we've been blessed with a lot of fine visiting golfers over the years - from celebrities like Bob Hope and George Gobel to old-timers like pro Sam Snead and Gene Sarazen."

The clubhouse seated 240 after the remodeling of the original structure in 1973. A ballroom - with windows overlooking expanses of green - was added in 1920. The porch was glazed-in a few years ago, and a veranda was added in 1976. The drinking water came from a reservoir built after the Civil War. It was designed by Colonel Rodman who assumed command of the Rock Island Arsenal in 1865.

There was a lot of activity at the club. The pool was a busy place in the summer, and the women members played bridge regularly. But the main purpose of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club was golf. There was no doubt someone would toast another 80 successful years at the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club's birthday bash. Yes, Colonel Blunt's strange pastime called golf had certainly caught on at the Arsenal.

In 1989, senior members of the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club voted to renovate the 90-year-old clubhouse at a cost of \$807,680. Club president David DeDoncker said, "We are very proud of our club. And a good club is an expensive club. The club will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1997. These improvements ought take care of the club's needs for the next 30 years."

In 1990, Bob Mulvihill announced his retirement after 25 years of service to the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club. Along with Major General Paul L. Greenberg and his wife, Sieglinde; Major General Henry A. Rasmussen; Lieutenant General Oren E. Hurlbut and his wife, Polly; Bob and his wife, Peggy, were honored by receiving a life membership from the Rock Island Arsenal Golf Club.

Bob's successor as manager of the club was Mr. Thaddeus W. Beaman, who resigned in 1994 in order to accept a position in Cincinnati, Ohio.